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REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT

IN THE

MADRAS PRESIDENCY

FOR THE

THREE YEARS ENDING 1916.

(*G.O. No. 1391, Judicial, dated 5th July 1917.*)

MADRAS:
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[Prescribed maximum length—10 pages.]

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF THE REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT

FOR THE THREE YEARS ENDING 1916.

[NOTE.—*Comparisons of figures in this report are, unless otherwise indicated, between those for the triennium ending* 1916 *and that immediately preceding.*]

Charge of the department.

I continued to hold the appointment of Inspector-General throughout the period under report.

District Registrars.

2. No change occurred in the number or in the jurisdiction of registration districts, but an appointment in the class of District Registrar was created in April 1914 for the post of Special Assistant to the Inspector-General of Registration in his capacity as Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, thus raising the number of District Registrars to 21 of whom one fills the post of my Personal Assistant and another that of Inspector of Registration Offices.

The appointment of a separate Registrar for the revenue district of Ramnad, which for administrative purposes is included in the registration district of Madura, was sanctioned in 1912 but the actual creation of the post was deferred pending the settlement of the question of the location of the headquarters of the revenue district. These, it was decided in June 1914, should be at Madura, but the perceptible decline in registrations in the tract in question owing to the dislocation of trade and to the first shock of the war as well as the financial stringency consequent on the war have so far deferred the introduction of this much-needed scheme of relief. In order to lighten this heavy charge an experiment was made in 1916 of entrusting the inspection of the sub-offices on the borders of the district to neighbouring District Registrars, but this did not prove successful mainly because it dissociated the district head from that touch with his officers and offices which is absolutely essential. Although the registrations in the district declined in 1914 and 1915, there was a recovery in 1916 and at the end of that year there was every indication of the pre-war level being attained.

The headquarters of the Ganjām district were transferred from Chatrapur to Berhampur with effect from the 1st January 1916 in order mainly to meet the convenience of the registering public inasmuch as the latter station, which was the headquarters prior to 1882, is more central and affords better facilities to the public for obtaining legal assistance in the matter of appeals.

Sub-Registrars.

3. The financial pressure consequent on the war necessitated the abandonment of the opening of new offices after the early part of 1914, but in that year 14 additional sub-districts were constituted with headquarters at Buguda (Ganjām), Mulanur (Coimbatore), Anniyur and Sankarapuram (South Arcot), Butlagundu, Sindhupatti, Abhiramam, Ilayangudi, Bogalur, Pandalkudi, Karaikudi and Singampuneri (Madura); Budalur (Tanjore) and Acharapakkam (Madras-Chingleput). With the opening of the new sub-offices in Madura one of the two Sub-Registrars previously attached to each of the stations of Kamudi, Paramakudi, Rmanad and Tiruppattūr was withdrawn. The office at Budalur necessitated a similar step as regards that of Tirukkattupalli.

In order to cope with the heavy original work in the city of Madras and in the towns of Guntūr and Cocanada a second Joint Sub-Registrar was appointed to each of the Registrars' offices at those places. The sub-districts of Palamcottah and Tinnevelly town were amalgamated into a single sub-district designated Tinnevelly and the three Sub-Registrars at the headquarters were

constituted joint officers with the Registrar. At Tanjore and also at Trichinopoly one of the two Joint Sub-Registrars who previously worked in a separate office was moved into the Registrar's office to facilitate the speedy despatch of work. The two separate offices at Kallakurchi and Panruti (South Arcot) were combined into a single office with two Sub-Registrars working together as joint officers. The amalgamation of the two offices at Tenkāsi (Tinnevelly) which has been sanctioned awaits the construction of a suitable building. One of the two offices at Vriddhāchalam was removed to Kammāpuram and the headquarters of the sub-district of Kalwa (Cuddapah-Kurnool) were transferred to Voravakallu, a healthier and more central locality.

There were 485 sub-offices under Sub-Registrars and 7 under officers of the Revenue department against 475 and 7, respectively, at the close of the previous triennium. The total number of Sub-Registrars including Joint Sub-Registrars attached to Registrars' and Sub-Registrars' offices rose from 501 to 513.

Extension of facilities for registration.

4. Owing to the stoppage of the opening of new sub-districts the area served by each office underwent little change, being 248 square miles at the close of the triennium as against 249 at its commencement. The corresponding figure in 1901 was 287. Schemes for the constitution of new sub-districts in the districts of South Malabar, North Arcot and Kistna and for strengthening the headquarters staff at Coimbatore were submitted to the Government but have had to be postponed. The similar strengthening of the headquarters sub-district in Salem and the creation of new sub-districts in North Malabar, Ganjām, South Arcot, Coimbatore, South Kanara, Cuddapah, Salem, Madura and Chingleput have been examined but have likewise had to be laid aside. The jurisdiction of existing sub-districts was nevertheless examined with the object of ascertaining whether the distances to be travelled by villagers to obtain the registration of documents could not be reduced, and in this manner the area falling to the jurisdiction of sub-offices was re-adjusted in eleven registration districts. The question is still under examination as regards others.

5. The past history of the department has proved that the progress of registrations is usually accelerated in the tracts opened up by new offices, but no useful comparison in this respect can be made as regards all the additional sub-districts constituted in 1914 owing again to the effect of the war in the dislocation of the export trade especially in groundnut and coconut produce and in the depression of the weaving industry by the scarcity of dyeing materials. In tracts where these causes did not operate extensively the results were eminently satisfactory, e.g., in Ganjām the registrations in the area falling under the influence of the new sub-district showed an increase of 17 per cent against a rise of 10·13 in the remainder of the district; in Coimbatore the corresponding figures were 6·21 and 3·05 per cent.

Temporary Joint Sub-Registrars.

6. Consequent on the opening of new offices in the early part of 1914 and the drop in registrations caused by the war, the number of offices in which temporary Joint Sub-Registrars were employed fell from 92 in 1913 to 86 in 1914 and to 44 in 1915. In 1916, however, the recovery in registrations raised the number to 65. The total expenditure was Rs. 13,600, Rs. 5,400 and Rs. 8,875 in each of the three years of the triennium.

Office accommodation.

7. The scheme for the establishment of central record offices at the headquarters of districts was abandoned as being unsuited to this Presidency mainly because of the difficulties and inconveniences which would arise from the separation of the records from their place of origin. A revised type-design for District Registrars' offices to meet present day requirements has however been sanctioned and plans and estimates for the construction of new offices at Masulipatam, Guntūr and Tinnevelly and for the adaptation of the old building at Cuddalore, all of which are at present held in rented buildings, are under preparation. The extension and improvement of the old buildings at Tellicherry, Mangalore, Coimbatore, Cuddapah and Bellary have been approved by the Government and the last mentioned work is now in progress. Proposals in regard to the office at Cocanada are now before the Government.

The existing design for sub-offices is not suitable and a revision with a view to increase the accommodation for parties and to provide separate accommodation for gosha ladies where such is necessary is now under consideration. In some of the existing buildings on the old design the inconveniences of lack of accommodation have been reduced by the extension of the verandahs. In the past there has been an appreciable waste of space in the record rooms owing to the use of almirahs which do not take full advantage of the height of the room, and in order to remedy this defect it has been decided to erect closed iron racks. An experiment has been made with a design with sliding doors, but racks constructed on this principle have not proved a success as they cannot be rendered rat-proof. A fresh design with hinged doors is under preparation. The settlement of this question should effect a real economy and assist in meeting the difficulty of finding room for the steadily increasing volume of records.

Registrations.

8. In 1912 the number of registrations (1,371,747) was the highest recorded up to that year and the advance was all but maintained in 1913 (1,368,653). Here a check occurred. The dislocation of trade, the commercial unrest and the misgivings in the minds of the people caused by the sudden outbreak of the war, the first shock of which was accentuated by the exploits of the "Emden", especially by her appearance off Madras, had a serious effect on all classes of transactions with the result that there was a heavy fall to 1,322,810 in 1914 and to 1,285,051 in 1915. It was, however, only in the earlier months of the last mentioned year that these causes operated fully; for the people became reconciled to existing conditions, although abnormal in many respects, and with August 1915 a greater sense of security set in. This continued during 1916 when registrations reached the record figure of 1,377,135.

Taking the triennium as a whole the registrations were 3,984,996 against 3,992,817 showing a nominal fall of ·2 per cent, the result of a decrease of ·59 per cent under the compulsory, and an increase of 2·78 per cent under the optional, class. The fall under the compulsory class was represented by documents relating to immovable property. The number of such documents under the optional class dropped by 3·02 per cent. Registrations in books 3 and 4 rose by 8·72 and 12·9 per cent, respectively.

The influence of the seasons on the progress of registrations has been discussed at considerable length in previous reports, but the almost uninterrupted advance in registrations since 1902 in spite of the varying nature of the seasons points to the conclusion that this is not the sole factor. An examination of the statistics for the period 1901 to 1916 proves that the registrations have varied directly with the prices of the chief food grains of the Presidency. As pointed out by Mr. Datta in his report on the enquiry into the rise of prices in India, prices have, notwithstanding vicissitudes in the seasons, maintained a high level consequent on the fact that production has not kept pace with population, on the increased demand for Indian products in the world markets and also in India itself owing to the remarkable improvement in the standard of living among all classes, on the extension of communications, on the increase in credit and on the improvement in banking and monetary facilities. With the rise in the price of products, the value of land, on which the majority of the people are dependent, as well as the credit of the ryot, are enhanced and these factors in their turn re-act on the transactions relating to immovable property which form over 95 per cent of the documents registered. The increase in the value of land is also testified to by the fact that whilst sales of all values increased by ·63 per cent only, those of property of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards rose by 7·09 per cent. The relation of prices to registrations, only the fringe of which can be approached within the limits of this administration report, is interesting and worthy of closer examination.

But it is not to the seasons or prices to which we have to turn for explanations for the variations *in the triennium.* These are to be found in the effects of the war on trade and on the money market. Generally speaking, the districts most prejudicially affected were those producing industrial crops such as groundnut and cotton and those with a large export trade, whilst those dependent upon food grains were benefited by the high prices that ruled since more money found its

way into the hands of agriculturists. The slump in the cotton market which occurred at the commencement of the war was arrested subsequently by the increase in prices consequent on the larger demand, partly from Japan ; but the groundnut trade did not show a similar recovery. The decrease in registrations was accordingly the most marked in the district of South Arcot, which is the chief centre for the latter product. The depression in the weaving industry already alluded to affected seriously the registrations in the districts of Madura and Ramnad.

There was an increase under all the important classes of documents except mortgages, gifts and optional leases which showed a decrease of 3·75, 2·38 and 7·22 per cent respectively. The decline under gifts is ascribed to the fact that donors avail themselves of the concession in the matter of stamp duty granted to dispositions of property by deeds of settlement. That under mortgages is attributed in part to the stringency of the money market and to the advance of money by co-operative societies on personal security. In the light of the fact that sales increased slightly the drop under mortgages may also be taken as indicating that the high prices and the generally favourable seasons reduced to some extent the indebtedness of the ryot and that the higher value of land induces him to part with portions of holdings altogether rather than have recourse to borrowing to meet his requirements. The fall under optional leases is only apparent as it is more than counterbalanced by an increase of 6·58 per cent under compulsory leases, the net result being an increase of 2·33 per cent under all leases taken together. The rise under the compulsory class was due partly to the fact that the requirement as regards the compulsory registration of non-agricultural leases for one year and less was in force throughout the triennium while in the previous triennium it had effect from the 1st June 1911 only. The decline under optional leases is explained by this requirement and also by the treatment of leases of fruit upon and juice in trees as relating to movable property in accordance with a decision of the Madras High Court in 1914.

Aggregate and average value of registered transactions and average registration fee.

9. Notwithstanding the decline in the number of registered documents the aggregate value rose by 13·12 crores, or 11·49 per cent, due in a small measure to the registration of two documents of the total value of 52 lakhs and five others of the value of 8 lakhs but chiefly to the general rise in the value of immovable property. The aggregate value of transactions relating to such property increased from 108·71 to 120·08 crores, as a net result of a rise of 11·40 crores under the compulsory class and a fall of ·03 crore under the optional class. The value of transactions not affecting immovable property advanced from 5·53 to 7·28 crores. With the higher aggregate value the average value of a registered document other than a will rose from Rs. 288 to Rs. 322 and the average registration fee from Rs. 1-6-11 to Rs. 1-7-6.

Registration of Wills.

10. The general fall in registrations did not affect wills which continued to advance, the figures for the last three triennial periods being 19,162, 23,950 and 26,045—thus again evidencing the increasing appreciation of the advantages of testamentary disposition and of the greater facilities afforded to the public in this direction by the reduction in 1909 of fees on wills of lower value. As in the past, the majority of testators were Hindus : wills executed by Muhammadans fell from 1,444 to 1,289 whilst those of Indian Christians showed a small rise from 282 to 342. Authorities to adopt remained practically stationary, 53 against 54. Inclusive of the 51* pending at the commencement of the triennium, 1,422 documents of these classes presented after the death of the testator or donor fell to be dealt with ; 1,124 were registered, 230 were refused registration and 5 were returned at the request of the presentant before the completion of the inquiry, leaving 63 pending. These inquiries impose a heavy responsibility upon junior officers and it is a defect in the Act to which attention has already been drawn that in a matter so important neither the Inspector-General nor the District Registrar has the power to transfer an inquiry from the file of one officer to that of another.

* Revised figure.

*Sealed covers containing Wills.

11. The transactions as regards the deposit of sealed covers under section 42 are inappreciable, the net result being to raise the number of unopened covers in the care of Registrars from * 653 to 740. Difficulties have been experienced in the preservation for any length of time of these covers on account of the flimsy paper of which they are frequently manufactured, their varying sizes and the inferior sealing wax used. The system is under trial, which appears to be in force in England, of supplying to intending depositors covers made of durable paper and of rendering superior sealing wax available in the Registrar's office and this plan has worked well so far. With a view, moreover, to minimise the chances of damage to the covers and seals the former are now enclosed in envelopes with transparent bodies and are maintained in small brass-spiked racks.

Searches.

Triennium ending		*Number.*
1904	...	72,461
1907	...	45,369
1910	...	35,192
1913	...	50,798
1916	...	68,597

12. General searches which are made in connection with applications for certificates of encumbrances, the system of granting which is peculiar to this Presidency, decreased considerably after 1905 consequent on the rule introduced in that year which dispensed with the compulsory production of such certificates in connection with applications for the execution of court decrees of the value of Rs. 500 and below and on the similar relaxation in respect of applications for State loans. The drop due to these causes has however been almost counterbalanced by the general rise in the demand for these certificates as a means of safeguarding title to property acquired. This indication that the public is recognizing their value more fully is supported by the higher ratio borne by them to the total number of sales and mortgages registered, viz., 2·3 per cent against 1·7 per cent. There is, however, still great scope for the utilization by the public in this respect of the records of the department, as is clear from the fact that the number of encumbrance certificates granted in 1916 formed only about 8 per cent of that of sales of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards.

Applications for single searches and for copies rose from 238,064 and 276,312 to 258,062 and 300,951, respectively, with a corresponding increase in collections from Rs. 2,60,176 and Rs. 1,58,645 to Rs. 2,78,830 and Rs. 1,78,450, respectively.

Proposals for the revision of the system of levy of fees for searches, both single and general, and for the simplification of the rules on the subject were considered during the triennium, but no satisfactory solution of the matter was reached.

Impounded Documents.

13. Documents were impounded by registering officers on account of insufficient stamp duty in 2,887 cases as against 2,945. With the 239 * such documents pending with revenue officers at the commencement of the triennium the total number of cases for disposal from this department was 3,126. In 2,663 of these penalty was levied, it was remitted in 9 cases, 240 documents were held to be correctly stamped, 22 were impounded permanently or otherwise disposed of and 192 were pending at the end of 1916. Impounding was justified in 98·8 per cent of the cases against 88·8 per cent. The number of documents impounded is not however a true measure of the volume of work performed by registering officers in connection with the stamping of documents; for it is no uncommon occurrence for them to be consulted by parties before documents are presented or even executed. The deficiency in an insufficiently stamped document presented for registration is due more frequently to ignorance than to a desire to defraud the stamp revenue, for the public is well aware that before the document can become operative it must undergo a minute examination as regards stamp duty by a public officer, and it is the experience of the department that the presentant is generally willing to pay the deficiency and any penalty, immediately the deficiency in stamp is pointed out. The appointment of the District Registrar as a Collector under some of the sections of the Stamp Act in respect of the documents presented for registration in his district would, it is thought, tend to a saving in the time now occupied in the adjudication of insufficiently stamped documents, which have to be forwarded by the registering officer

* Revised figures.

for adjudication to the Revenue Divisional Officer and, after adjudication by him, to a subordinate revenue officer for the collection of deficit duty and penalty—considerable delay sometimes occurring in finding the party. A District Registrar might well be empowered in this manner since in the course of his previous service as a Sub-Registrar, an important part of the daily round of whose duties is the scrutiny of documents in the light of the provisions of the stamp law, he acquires an acquaintance with documents various in their nature and in description and thus an intimate knowledge of the stamp law and the rulings thereunder, and *qua* District Registrar he has constantly in his reviews of the accounts of his sub-offices to decide questions regarding the classification of documents for stamp purposes. In order to reduce delay in the registration of documents impounded in this department the experiment is now being made of transferring from the Tahsildar to the registering officer the collection of deficit duty and penalty.

Applications for transfer of Revenue registry.

14. In November 1914 it was decided by the Government, in order to bring the revenue registry into agreement with actual facts, that the rules regulating the presentation to registering officers of applications for transfer of patta should be altered by dispensing with the condition that both parties to an absolute transfer should execute the application and by requiring that in respect of every such transfer either an application signed by one or both of the parties or a notice of transfer prepared by the registering officer should be forwarded to the Revenue department. The result of this step, which brings the records of the two departments into closer communion, has been to raise the number of applications from 157,070 to 470,330. It took some time for the public to appreciate the benefits of the system and in 1915 the proportion of notices prepared by registering officers to applications presented by parties was high. Matters, however, improved in 1916. Every endeavour is being made to popularize the presentation of applications by parties if only in the interests of reduction of work in the department itself which is by no means inappreciable. Consequent on the changes just referred to, the number of documents executed solely for the purpose of presenting such applications steadily declined from 2,229 in 1914 to 1,628 in 1915 and 1,283 in 1916.

Work done for Co-operative Societies.

15. The growth in the operations of co-operative societies so far as it affects this department was maintained, the number of documents registered on their behalf rising from 27,371 to 33,561 and of searches from 2,931 to 4,962. The exemption of transactions connected with these societies from the ordinary fees leviable under the Indian Registration Act relieved them and their members to the extent of Rs. 80,579 as against Rs. 54,870.

Work connected with these societies in 1916 was the heaviest in the revenue district of Chingleput, the next in order being North Arcot, Salem, Anantapur and Trichinopoly. In order to prevent the abuse of the concession of obtaining certificates of encumbrances free of cost, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies has at my request instructed societies not to apply for these before loans are sanctioned and to ensure that sanction is granted only when there is a reasonable chance of funds being available.

Refusals to register.

16. The introduction with the revised rules on the 1st August 1914 of the minute book rendered unnecessary the practice previously in force of treating documents returned unregistered at the request of the presentants as having been *refused* registration. Excluding from the statistics the number thus voluntarily withdrawn from registration, refusals to register showed a decline from 4,076 to 3,658. Denial of execution accounted for 59 per cent of these, non-appearance of the executants within the prescribed time for 21 and minority, idiocy or lunacy of executants for 7.

Appeals.

17. Appeals against refusal orders passed by Sub-Registrars were filed before District Registrars under section 72 in 253 cases against 318, giving a total of 269 cases to be dealt with inclusive of those pending at the commencement of the triennium. In the 259 cases heard the

orders of Sub-Registrars were upheld in 154 or 59·5 per cent against 65 per cent. Four cases were withdrawn and 6 were pending.

There were 1,538 applications under section 73 against 1,610 and 60 were pending from the preceding triennium. Of these, 1,538 were disposed of against * 1,621 and 60 were pending at the close of the triennium. The refusals of Sub-Registrars were confirmed in 18·9 per cent of the cases heard against 22 per cent. The low percentage of confirmation is due to the fact that the Registrar is empowered to enquire into the fact of execution while the Sub-Registrar has not that power.

In 77·5 per cent of the 113 cases of enquiries under section 74 in the case of denial of execution before a District Registrar registration of the document was ordered.

Percentage of documents copied and returned on the day of presentation.

18. The percentage of documents made ready for delivery on the day of presentation advanced steadily from 72·7 in 1913, the highest proportion reached so far, to 74·8 in 1914, 76 in 1915 and 76·7 in 1916. These satisfactory results may be attributed to the same causes as those which led to the improvement in this respect noticed in the preceding triennium, viz., greater punctuality in attendance *during office hours*, the periodical examination of the permanent clerical staff of each office in order to distribute the strength to the best advantage in relation to the volume of the work, and the possession by District Registrars of greater powers in the matter of employing section writers so as to render this source of aid more prompt and therefore more effectual. In 1916 I extended the powers of District Registrars still further in the last direction. These measures of general control would, however, have availed little had it not been for the whole-hearted co-operation of the officers and clerks in the department, and the results under this head are a special matter of congratulation when it is remembered that the department has been working short-handed as regards its permanent clerical staff for many years past. The introduction of the revised clerical scheme in its entirety would have mitigated the difficulties arising from this cause, but unfortunately that part relating to the strengthening of the staff has had to be postponed on account of the financial stringency arising from the war and the department has depended in a large measure on the so-called section writer. It appears to be superfluous to dwell on the inconveniences and hindrances to speedy and accurate work arising from the employment to any considerable extent of this class of employee whose remuneration is low (Rs. 12), whose tenure is uncertain and who has practically no stake in the department. Had it not been for the necessity for strict economy I should long ere this have submitted proposals for the inauguration of a class of probationary clerks, in fact such a scheme has been all but elaborated. This, like other pressing matters, must however wait for better times.

The percentage of documents returned to parties on the day of registration also rose from 60·8 in 1914 to 62·7 in 1915 and 63·5 in 1916. These are naturally lower than the percentages actually made ready for delivery, for parties cannot always wait and take back their documents and the system of returning documents by post is extending. The number of documents so returned was 225,676 against 165,942 giving a percentage to the total number of registrations of 5·7 against 4·2. The system is growing in popularity and the advance would have been greater but for the fact that it has been ruled out of order to return in the same cover documents presented by different individuals although made deliverable to the same nominee. This last procedure is convenient to people who come from the same village.

Unclaimed documents.

19. The number of documents lying unclaimed continued to fall—5,924 at the close of 1910, 3,431 at the end of 1913 and 3,092 at the end of 1916. This satisfactory feature may be attributed to the speedier transcription and return of documents, the regular issue of notices to claim back documents, the return of a larger number by post, and last but not least to the reduction in the safe custody fee (paragraph 26 (*d*) infra).

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* Revised figure.

Documents discredited by civil courts.

20. The civil courts discredited or cancelled 82 registered documents and of these 23 were for fraud or failure of consideration and 10 for forgery and false personation. The corresponding figures for the preceding triennium were 65*, 24* and 7 respectively. In no case of forgery or fraud was the conduct or procedure of the registering officer called into question by the court.

Prosecutions, private.

21. There was a noteworthy fall from 26 to 14 in the number of prosecutions instituted by private parties for offences under the Act. Of the 16 cases, inclusive of 2 pending from the previous triennium, 8 ended in conviction, 3 in acquittal, 1 was withdrawn and 4 were pending.

Prosecutions, departmental.

22. The department instituted 29 prosecutions as against 26*, and 3 were pending. Of these 18 were for false personation, 3 for making a false statement before a registering officer and 6 for forgery. Conviction was obtained in 26 cases and 3 ended in acquittal, leaving 3 pending.

In one case the claimant under a registered mortgage deed fraudulently altered the date of redemption in the document from 1913 to 1963 and attempted to enlist the aid of a clerk of the department to make a corresponding alteration in the entry in the register book. The clerk brought the attempt to the notice of the Sub-Registrar and the culprit was convicted and sentenced to six months' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100.

In order to guard against false personation the department introduced some years ago the system of taking thumb impressions of parties and this acts as a deterrent, but owing to the fact that a large proportion of the parties are illiterate marksmen there is still room for false personation. The departmental orders require that in addition to thumb impressions the identity of a party should be proved as far as practicable by the testimony of persons known to the registering officer or where such testimony is not procurable by the most trustworthy evidence available. In a large number of cases the village officer accompanies the party to the registration office but sometimes people who come from a distance seek the help of persons at the headquarters station to identify them with a view to save the expense of bringing witnesses along with them. The question whether further measures should be adopted is under consideration.

Other functions of registering officers.

23. In addition to the duties appertaining to the department, registering officers exercise the undermentioned functions.

(1) *Registration of companies.*—All District Registrars are Assistant Registrars of Joint Stock Companies within the districts to which their jurisdiction as District Registrar respectively extends and my Personal Assistant is also an Assistant Registrar for Madras city.

(2) *Registration of births and deaths.*—(*a*) All registering officers are *ex-officio* Registrars of Births and Deaths under section 12 of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1886, for the local areas comprised within their respective jurisdiction.

(*b*) All District Registrars are *ex-officio* Registrars under the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1865, within the respective limits of their districts.

(*c*) The registering officers in the three West Coast districts and the District Registrar of Madras-Chingleput are *ex-officio* Registrars of marriages under the Malabar Marriage Act, 1896, for the local areas within their jurisdiction.

(*d*) All Sub-Registrars are custodians of registers of births and deaths maintained under the Madras Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1899.

(3) *Special Magistrates.*—Ninety-seven Sub-Registrars exercised the powers of a special magistrate during 1916 and disposed of 6,320 cases against 71 and 6,338, respectively, during 1913. Seven Sub-Registrars were members of bench courts. As stated in paragraph 30 (iii) of the last triennial report it was decided to meet the difficulties previously existing in manning stations requiring officers qualified to exercise magisterial powers by making the Criminal Judicial test (lower) compulsory on Sub-Registrars appointed after the 1st April 1912; but the rule in this form was found to produce anomalies and so it has been altered to make

* Revised figures.

the passing of the test a qualification for promotion to the sixth grade (Rs. 70). The rule has not been in force sufficiently long to admit of the full benefits being reaped and the officering of these stations still leads to some transfers which should be avoidable.

(4) *Notaries Public.*—The number of registering officers who exercised these functions was 178 at the end of 1916.

(5) *Attestation of vakalatnamahs and affidavits.*—In 1916 all Sub-Registrars in the city of Madras were authorized to attest vakalatnamahs, affidavits, powers of attorney, rental agreements, leases and certificates of age for use in judicial or other proceedings in cases in which they know the parties personally or when the latter appear before them and are identified in connexion with the registration of documents.

(6) *Local bodies.*—Every encouragement is given to registering officers to render themselves useful in connexion with the affairs of local bodies and institutions. At the end of the triennium 2 Sub-Registrars held the post of vice-president of taluk boards, 21 were chairmen of unions or municipalities and 40 were members of these bodies and of local committees such as dispensary committees and village sanitary committees.

(7) *Treasuries.*—As usual, Sub-Registrars at taluk and Deputy Tahsildar's stations attended to treasury transactions during the absence of the Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar and the number falling under the latter head during 1916 was 43. The Sub-Registrars of Bimlipatam and Vizianagram were also authorized to issue salt credit orders during the absence of the Tahsildar.

The Sub-Registrar of Kampli (Bellary), a station bordering on the Nizam's dominions, is a frontier amin whose function is to grant passports for the transit of goods through that State.

(8) *Registry of rainfall.*—During 1916, 43 Sub-Registrars had charge of rain gauges.

Inspections.

24. All the sub-offices with the exception of Anjengo and Tangasseri (South Malabar) which were as usual inspected in alternate years, and Nugur and Bhadrachalam (Gōdāvari), which are inspected triennially, were inspected by District Registrars in each year of the triennium.

I inspected all the Registrars' offices thrice, except Bellary and Salem in the case of which there were only two inspections, and 347 sub-offices were inspected by myself and the Inspector of Registration Offices under my direction, as against 339.

I have instituted the custom of holding meetings of registering officers at convenient centres during my tours in order to discuss questions relating to the working of the department. These meetings have proved very beneficial in clearing up doubtful points of procedure and also in tending to securing uniformity in procedure.

Financial Results. Income.

25. Concurrently with the fluctuations in registrations, the income from fees for the registration of documents fell in the first two years but rose perceptibly in 1916, the nett result being a slight increase from 55·35 to 58·58 lakhs in the triennium. Fees for searches including those in Books 3 and 4 and for copies increased from 5·46 and 1·59 to 6·57 and 1·78 lakhs respectively, and under "other fees" there was a rise of ·38 lakh due chiefly to the inclusion since August 1914 under that head of fees collected for the return of documents by post. The total revenue collected by the department was 70·18 against 65·26 lakhs.

Expenditure.

Excluding the charges under printing, binding and stationery, the total expenditure was 40·58 against 39·30 lakhs. The increase occurred chiefly under (*a*) salaries and establishment including local allowances (1·06), (*b*) postage and telegram charges (0·25) and (*c*) buildings (0·64). The first was due to the opening of new offices and the raising of the minimum pay of the clerical staff from Rs. 14 to Rs. 20 from the 1st June 1916. That under (*b*) was nominal, arising from the charges connected with the return of documents by post and being counterbalanced by an increase in the receipts *per contra*. That under (*c*) was consequent on the completion of a larger number of

buildings and the erection of iron record racks but as against the expenditure on the latter there was a fall of ·13 lakh under *Purchase and repair of furniture.* On account of the present financial pressure strict economy was observed and expenditure kept at the lowest practicable limits.

Owing to the change in procedure introduced in 1913 under which books and forms are supplied to the districts from the Government Press instead of from the Inspector-General's office and which abolished the practice formerly in vogue of the Inspector-General's stocking paper and supplying the Press as required, it is not practicable to compare the outlay under printing, binding and stationery as neither the Superintendent of Stationery nor the Superintendent of the Government Press can separate off the cost of paper used for this department.

Departmental Improvements.

26. (*a*) *Registration rules.*—The registration rules revised on the lines indicated in paragraph 32 of the last triennial report were brought into force from the 1st August 1914. Since then they have been amended by vesting in the Inspector-General the prescription of the number of pages in register books which was formerly subject to the sanction of the Government and by prohibiting the practice of forwarding to courts for purposes of evidence pages containing thumb impressions removed from the registers. A rule was also issued to admit of the destruction of volumes appertaining to the period 1864 to 1871 which were originally lodged in the general registry, now the Inspector-General's office, and in which were entered abstracts of documents registered in the Presidency and the indexes thereto. These records proved of no practical use since the originals exist in the district. Verbal amendments have also been carried out in some cases.

(*b*) *Registration Manual.*—The collation of the departmental orders was completed in 1915 and these were issued as Part II of the Registration Manual; Part I consisting of the Registration Act, extracts from other Acts bearing on it, the registration rules and the table of fees. The compilation had been for some time in preparation as was to be expected from the facts that the immediately preceding issue of a manual occurred in 1888 and that this was not kept up to date, the numerous alterations and additions to the standing orders consequent on the expansion of the department and the necessity for greater definition of procedure being issued in the form of circulars. The benefit of a set of codified orders has already been felt in the disposal, both by the Inspector-General and by District Registrars, of questions submitted for their decision and their mere collation, by bringing out discrepancies and indicating weak points of procedure, has already led to various salutary changes. As an offshoot, I have remodelled the entire procedure in my own office and issued standing orders for each section, a step which has assisted me in avoiding any application for an increase in the strength of the staff which in spite of the development of this department has remained the same for many years past and the duties falling to which were fast becoming unduly heavy. In these processes various returns which were not absolutely necessary have been abolished, others have been reduced in bulk and in detail and in several matters the powers of District Registrars have been enlarged so far as can be done with due regard to effective control.

(*c*) *Registration by filing.*—The system of filing duplicate copies of printed documents has been introduced in the case of co-operative societies. Under this a document when presented for registration is accompanied by a copy of the printed form and in the latter the registering officer causes the manuscript entries in the original document to be reproduced, returns the original document duly registered and files with prescribed safeguards the duplicate copy in a file book which until completion is kept in his personal custody. This system which tends to speedy registration has been introduced in 42 sub-offices, but its success has not been so great as might be wished. The societies themselves do not evince much anxiety as regards the adoption of the printed forms and the present condition of the paper market deters them from obtaining forms printed on durable paper which is essential. The matter has been brought to the notice of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. It appears to be feasible to extend the system to documents executed in favour of the Government or of local bodies, such as forest agreements, leases and security bonds furnished by employees, for which if a common printed

form could be prescribed much time and labour would be saved. The matter has been referred to the Board of Revenue and to the other departments concerned.

(*d*) *Alterations in the Table of Fees.*—In October 1915 the minimum and maximum fees leviable for the safe custody of unclaimed documents were reduced from 8 annas and Rs. 5 to 4 annas and Rs. 2, respectively. The decline in the number of unclaimed documents from 3,312 at the end of 1915 to 3,092 at the close of 1916 may be attributed to the concession. Its appreciation by the public is evidenced by the facts that in one district there were instances in which documents, the destruction of which had been sanctioned on the expiry of the prescribed period, were before destruction claimed back by the parties on payment of the reduced maximum fee and that the number of unclaimed documents in that district which stood at 302 at the end of 1913 fell to 195 at the close of 1916.

(*e*) *Records.*—As an additional safeguard against tampering, registering officers have been instructed to advise parties to describe in documents brought for registration both in figures and words such material items as dates, the amounts of consideration, the rate of interest and the extent of the property affected. This procedure is becoming more general and its benefits cannot be underestimated.

(*f*) *Establishments.*—(i) The scheme for the revision of the clerical establishment received the sanction of the Secretary of State but owing to the financial stringency consequent on the war only that portion which relates to the raising of the minimum pay (Rs. 14) to Rs. 20 has been introduced with effect from the 1st June 1916, grain compensation allowance being abolished. This step, by rendering the posts more attractive to passed men, will undoubtedly add to the efficiency of the department.

(ii) From the 1st April 1915 the number of Probationary Sub-Registrars was raised from 60 to 75 and their starting pay from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 advancing to Rs. 25 on the passing of the requisite departmental tests. The increase in this cadre has facilitated the grant of leave to Sub-Registrars which was becoming a matter of some difficulty and has also reduced the number of instances in which it is necessary to place clerks in charge of sub-offices. Even in the unavoidable cases when that takes place, the handling of the older records has been restricted by special regulations safeguarding the custody of the keys of the record receptacles.

(iii) The pay of clerks which was formerly local has been made personal. This has reduced transfers with a corresponding saving in expenditure and gain in efficiency and has also facilitated the adjustment of the staff from time to time with reference to the work falling to the several offices.

(*g*) *Delegation of powers.*—(i) In 1916 District Registrars were as a tentative measure empowered to grant privilege leave to Sub-Registrars provided that a qualified probationer is available to fill the vacancy, and for this purpose qualified probationers are allotted to each district with reference to its requirements. This measure of decentralization has so far proved beneficial and the necessity for its continuation will be decided next October.

(ii) Sub-Registrars have been empowered to grant to menials leave up to one month at a time and for not more than one month in a calendar year and hospital leave under article 287 of the Civil Service Regulations, and to appoint substitutes in the place of the absentees.

(iii) The introduction of the system of contract contingencies from the 1st April 1914 has facilitated decentralization and District Registrars have now full powers of re-appropriation within the contract grant allotted to their district. In place of the system previously existing under which the District Registrar maintained the contingent register for the whole of his district, Sub-Registrars now do so as regards their expenditure and cash their contingent bills at sub-treasuries without countersignature and without pre-audit by the huzur treasury.

(*h*) *Economy in the use of stationery.*—(i) Hitherto, copies forwarded under sections 64 to 67 of the Act were prepared on paper of royal size and memoranda on foolscap, thus necessitating the use of files of two sizes, the larger being extremely clumsy. The files previously supplied were moreover not sufficiently strong for record purposes unless rebound after completion and this entailed extra expense and

added to the difficulties of the binding question since it is impossible to find efficient binders in very many of the out-of-the-way stations at which sub-offices are located. The size of paper for copies has been reduced to that of the memoranda and substantially bound files with the butts numbered in print have been standardized.

(ii) The duplicates of indexes maintained at the headquarters of districts under section 56 have all along been prepared on costly paper. The question of their discontinuance is under examination and I hope to be able to address the Government shortly regarding the amendment of the Act in that respect. Pending a final settlement of the question, a much less costly variety of paper is being used and the binding has also been cheapened considerably.

(iii) Orders have been issued introducing economy in the binding of records and publications and in the rebinding of register books and account books.

(iv) The expenditure on postage, and indirectly of stationery, has been reduced by the institution of fixed days for the despatch of non-urgent communications between offices.

Service registers.

27. The service registers hitherto maintained for District Registrars have been discontinued as they are now treated as gazetted officers for audit purposes also. For all other officers of the department such registers have been duly maintained.

Valuable stock.

28. A register of valuable stock is maintained in every registration office.

Casualties.

29. Nine Registrars and 37 Sub-Registrars retired, 7 Registrars and 24 Sub-Registrars died, one Sub-Registrar resigned, one was transferred to the Revenue Department and two were dismissed.

Conclusion.

30. During the triennium the effect of the war looms largely, as in other branches of the administration; for it has retarded the progress of the department, curtailed its activities and of necessity deferred schemes for the betterment of the staff upon the efficiency and adequacy of which the comfort of the people depends. Matters have not, however, been at a stand-still, for as indicated in the preceding paragraphs various measures of improvement have been undertaken and are in contemplation. The growth of the operations of the department will be seen from the statistics in the subjoined statement :—

——	1901–02.	1911.	1916.	Percentage of increase of column 4	
				to column 2.	to column 3.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Registrations *	991	1,252	1,377	39	10
Receipts *	1,449	1,989	2,466	71·25	24
Expenditure * †	921	1,269	1,338	45·3	5·4
Percentage of expenditure to receipts.	64	63·9	54·3	...	...
Aggregate value of property involved in registered transactions— *					
Immoveable	195,978	324,737	424,982	116·9	30·9
Moveable	10,646	15,957	27,858	161·7	74·6
	206,624	340,694	452,840	119·2	33
Area in square miles	125,600	126,225	126,225	...	...
Population	37,027,060	40,034,787	40,034,787	...	...
Number of offices	438	494	510	...	...
Average area per office in square miles.	287	256	248	...	...
Average population per office ...	84,537	81,042	78,500	...	...

* In thousands. † Excludes value of stationery, printing and binding.

The functions of the department do not, however, begin and end with registration, for it is utilized in administering the company law and it assists in the protection of the stamp revenue, in bringing the revenue registry into accord with facts, in the performance of magisterial duties in many stations mostly out-of-the-way, in the operations of the co-operative movement and in the discharge of miscellaneous administrative duties.

The officers of the department have with very few exceptions performed their duties zealously and faithfully, whilst at the same time labouring under the real difficulty of an inadequate staff the necessity for strengthening which has been recognized by the Government.

MADRAS,
11th April 1917.

C. M. SCHMIDT,
Inspector-General of Registration.

APPENDIX I.

Statement of instruments registered and of the value of property transferred by registered instruments in each district of the Madras Presidency for the year 1916.

Districts.	Number of Registration offices.	Registrations affecting immovable property, Book 1.																
		Compulsory.																
		Instruments of gift [section 17(1), clause (*a*)].		Instruments of sale or exchange of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards.		Instruments of sale or exchange of the value less than Rs. 100 (sections 54 and 118 of the Transfer of Property Act).		Instruments of mortgage.		Other instruments registered under section 17 (1), clauses (*b*) and (*c*).		Instruments of perpetual lease [section 17 (1), clause (*d*)].		All instruments of lease (other than of perpetual lease).		Amount of fines or premia paid on leases.	Total of compulsory registrations.	
		Number.	Aggregate value.	Number.	Aggregate value.	Number.	Aggregate value.	Number.	Aggregate value.	Number.	Aggregate value.	Number.	Aggregate value.	Number.	Aggregate value.		Number.	Aggregate value.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	16(*a*)	17	18
			RS.		RS.		RS.		RS.		RS.		RS.		RS.	RS.		RS.
Madras	3	82	2,88,503	2,473	74,98,678	175	8,930	2,954	63,42,027	606	39,01,578	...	...	2,993	6,85,056	90,188	9,283	1,88,14,960
Chingleput ...	16	243	83,456	13,153	54,08,313	9,772	4,36,819	21,046	52,76,262	1,267	11,40,189	104	1,596	1,417	1,06,265	6,658	47,002	1,24,59,558
Ganjām	15	140	45,094	10,597	41,93,732	9,245	4,21,290	15,806	35,65,749	581	5,37,677	64	2,531	1,598	3,92,682	591	38,031	91,59,346
Gōdāvari	18	683	3,74,009	10,628	73,25,396	4,143	1,89,619	10,942	53,43,929	1,410	16,92,846	63	290	6,286	9,81,186	16,377	34,155	1,59,23,652
Vizagapatam ...	14	210	79,931	7,287	37,30,354	4,277	1,94,333	12,465	41,91,636	585	19,85,022	60	2,015	1,053	1,58,372	5,112	25,937	1,03,46,775
Kistna	23	1,026	8,39,372	25,134	1,58,43,935	8,737	4,28,458	16,006	68,99,676	2,126	35,99,034	919	20,404	6,099	7,81,757	1,58,183	60,047	2,85,70,819
Guntūr	20	1,127	6,36,150	22,216	1,17,75,270	7,457	3,50,512	9,756	38,14,275	1,903	21,01,714	76	1,082	5,736	4,53,995	16,694	48,271	1,91,49,692
Nellore	15	324	1,35,163	7,624	30,58,566	5,533	2,56,216	5,693	17,17,562	593	6,70,126	274	3,549	1,596	1,53,548	4,289	21,640	59,99,019
Cuddapah	9	333	89,041	6,379	19,30,560	5,584	2,39,157	2,544	6,59,224	357	3,74,148	28	304	230	15,870	132	15,455	33,08,436
Kurnool	14	348	1,22,461	6,583	20,79,550	4,541	2,05,575	5,526	14,91,029	528	6,05,733	3	24	315	69,396	187	17,844	45,73,955
Bellary	11	178	49,488	6,623	23,16,656	2,966	1,39,146	6,637	23,21,814	366	3,50,172	8	77	343	72,139	3,763	17,121	52,53,255
Anantapur... ...	11	259	74,276	5,326	18,44,948	4,159	1,80,646	4,778	13,04,094	322	2,83,824	32	598	223	49,469	1,110	15,099	37,38,965
Chittoor	11	241	77,351	6,068	19,02,508	7,921	3,17,997	7,307	17,27,495	403	3,96,021	403	10,616	550	55,325	1,071	22,893	44,88,384
North Arcot ...	20	343	1,02,876	21,095	73,72,211	14,698	6,45,789	29,748	65,44,793	1,343	16,14,847	345	2,391	1,189	1,21,922	15,056	68,761	1,64,19,885
South Arcot ...	30	439	2,24,335	23,555	85,99,547	16,908	7,63,525	37,481	81,42,901	3,189	21,32,111	7	136	2,681	1,66,876	4,537	84,260	2,00,33,968
Tanjore	34	394	2,21,960	22,362	1,65,97,705	10,801	5,19,004	29,340	1,31,46,182	4,336	59,41,406	53	1,603	12,996	12,14,303	28,376	80,282	3,76,70,539
Tinnevelly ...	34	552	3,38,598	25,913	1,30,84,368	13,302	5,84,026	48,871	1,38,15,741	6,226	53,94,264	291	2,396	1,610	2,43,498	25,757	96,765	3,34,88,648
Madura	25	187	1,11,359	18,556	99,16,869	8,722	3,97,526	41,208	1,21,00,552	2,423	54,93,769	46	1,398	1,413	2,28,049	14,848	72,555	2,82,64,370
Ramnad	25	323	1,58,493	16,016	82,68,277	8,101	3,75,032	38,116	98,63,230	2,709	34,14,053	449	5,338	1,659	1,46,493	50,094	67,373	2,22,81,010
Trichinopoly ...	26	188	1,17,313	22,930	1,01,55,210	13,953	6,18,624	33,969	1,05,50,937	2,936	31,87,167	77	4,879	3,230	4,20,395	17,723	77,283	2,50,72,248
Salem	20	169	65,893	14,483	50,86,277	8,194	3,59,981	24,153	53,67,093	1,279	17,01,377	93	470	1,000	75,749	9,362	49,371	1,26,66,202
Coimbatore ...	27	291	2,00,426	18,891	1,26,27,746	8,526	3,47,858	36,587	1,38,36,169	3,475	38,22,629	27	3,161	4,766	9,14,733	42,826	72,563	3,17,95,548
The Nilgiris ...	3	12	8,225	621	7,28,186	780	31,467	392	3,26,477	52	1,32,975	...	...	96	30,792	165	1,953	12,58,287
South Kanara ...	18	172	1,58,407	2,303	27,48,390	744	30,486	7,333	50,56,961	3,888	30,93,579	2,240	48,531	2,170	1,97,148	74,343	18,850	1,14,07,845
North Malabar ...	28	849	2,74,157	1,236	7,88,775	217	10,591	30,720	43,76,201	7,812	30,36,627	204	2,561	19,313	3,75,370	1,80,234	60,351	90,44,516
South Malabar ...	40	413	2,42,265	3,037	21,47,676	1,318	58,519	60,207	1,01,49,257	15,102	85,66,754	52	892	8,609	3,95,857	78,192	88,738	2,16,39,412
Total ...	510	9,526	51,18,602	321,089	16,70,29,703	180,774	81,11,126	539,585	15,79,31,266	65,820	6,51,69,642	5,918	1,16,842	89,171	85,06,245	8,45,868	1,211,883	41,28,29,294
Total for 1915 ...	513	7,409	39,84,136	280,569	14,47,75,592	167,960	74,69,308	518,178	15,03,71,306	62,753	6,17,00,318	6,484	1,12,326	81,698	87,42,905	9,02,271	1,125,051	37,80,58,162
Total for 1914 ...	513	8,094	37,74,113	291,300	14,51,29,264	179,393	79,63,149	532,331	14,78,98,968	60,571	5,97,45,594	6,282	1,19,944	85,397	93,49,930	8,14,285	1,163,368	37,47,95,247

APPENDIX I—*continued.*

Statement of instruments registered and of the value of property transferred by registered instruments in each district of the Madras Presidency for the year 1916—continued.

Districts.	Registrations affecting immovable property, Book I—*concluded.* Optional. Instruments of sale or exchange of value of less than Rs. 100. Number.	Aggregate value.	Instruments of mortgage. Number.	Aggregate value.	Instruments of lease. Number.	Aggregate value.	Amount of fines or premia paid on leases.	Other instruments registered under section 18, clauses (*a*) and (*b*). Number.	Aggregate value.	Awards [section 17 (2), clause (vi)]. Number.	Aggregate value.	Miscellaneous registrations other than certified copies of decrees and orders of Court. Number.	Aggregate value.	Certified copies of decrees and orders of Court. Number.	Aggregate value.	Total of optional registrations relating to immovable property. Number.	Aggregate value.
	19	20	21	22	23	24	24(*a*)	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
						RS.	RS.		RS.		RS.		RS.		RS.		RS.
Madras	...	...	...	...	10	638	200	24	1,119	4	51,419	69	1,72,714	1	15,000	108	2,41,090
Chingleput ...	...	...	...	...	571	19,329	27	474	20,861	...	...	80	92,817	1	1,332	1,126	1,34,366
Ganjām	...	...	...	...	1,487	1,72,439	34	213	12,085	1	1,435	216	1,04,609	2	203	1,919	2,90,805
Gōdāvari	...	...	...	...	1,465	74,810	34	240	11,538	2	20,056	267	1,93,717	2	1,200	1,976	3,01,355
Vizagapatam ...	...	...	...	...	766	40,111	600	157	7,275	7	13,010	636	1,09,213	4	1,761	1,570	1,71,970
Kistna	...	...	...	...	985	53,273	3,002	474	28,499	3	5,100	76	97,612	...	...	1,538	1,87,486
Guntūr	...	...	...	...	399	18,094	111	427	17,797	1	1,400	89	31,100	2	62	918	68,564
Nellore	...	...	...	...	178	3,698	...	194	8,241	...	...	15	9,982	1	560	388	22,481
Cuddapah	...	...	...	...	33	2,538	...	120	9,913	...	...	277	1,04,589	...	...	430	1,17,040
Kurnool	...	...	...	...	62	2,470	90	156	8,640	1	280	183	89,348	...	...	402	1,00,828
Bellary	...	...	...	...	44	2,545	...	89	4,208	1	1,000	14	11,539	1	6	149	19,298
Anantapur	...	...	...	...	45	2,436	...	133	5,060	1	85	146	66,761	...	...	325	74,342
Chittoor	...	...	...	...	166	5,770	...	212	9,464	...	...	54	72,612	...	...	432	87,846
North Arcot ...	...	...	...	...	493	22,903	270	581	22,488	3	11,939	63	28,847	...	...	1,140	86,447
South Arcot ...	...	...	...	...	940	43,987	178	1,328	63,550	4	15,772	200	1,37,279	12	6,301	2,484	2,67,067
Tanjore	...	...	...	...	1,680	82,867	35	965	48,019	...	...	484	5,03,670	6	6,059	3,135	6,40,650
Tinnevelly	...	...	...	...	486	26,886	270	1,851	87,059	...	...	3,353	15,37,402	2	85,300	5,692	17,36,917
Madura	...	...	...	...	634	41,754	1,118	842	37,282	...	...	204	2,86,025	2	1,276	1,682	3,67,455
Ramnad	...	...	...	...	778	25,228	400	1,112	46,329	4	5,000	256	1,80,148	1	140	2,151	2,57,245
Trichinopoly ...	...	...	...	...	1,087	43,608	105	826	40,875	...	...	208	1,46,300	1	1,340	2,122	2,32,228
Salem	...	...	...	...	635	24,116	2,392	420	17,308	2	3,126	252	1,24,119	1	...	1,310	1,71,061
Coimbatore ...	...	...	...	...	1,404	64,886	2,060	946	49,299	...	...	914	5,91,970	2	23,000	3,266	7,31,215
The Nilgiris ...	...	...	...	...	5	311	...	9	325	...	...	74	1,10,090	1	9,000	89	1,19,726
South Kanara ...	...	...	...	...	1,378	97,065	1,123	1,441	62,670	...	...	2,014	11,59,423	1	1,138	4,834	13,21,419
North Malabar ...	...	...	...	...	6,686	1,45,029	30,357	11,605	3,97,509	...	...	3,947	5,49,968	4	...	22,242	11,22,863
South Malabar ...	...	...	...	...	11,714	6,90,682	2,40,121	15,726	6,28,637	...	...	5,966	17,21,398	1	...	33,407	32,80,888
Total ...	...	...	...	...	34,131	17,07,473	2,82,527	40,565	16,46,050	34	1,29,622	20,057	82,33,252	48	1,53,678	94,835	1,21,52,602
Total for 1915 ...	...	...	...	...	34,517	15,80,278	2,40,405	40,557	16,15,866	24	1,52,785	18,047	78,33,451	56	52,208	93,201	1,14,74,993
Total for 1914 ...	...	...	...	...	37,662	17,34,278	2,75,495	39,976	15,61,791	25	1,55,278	18,971	77,44,972	52	18,711	96,686	1,14,90,525

APPENDIX I—*concluded.*

Statement of instruments registered and of the value of property transferred by registered instruments in each district of the Madras Presidency for the year 1916—concluded.

Districts.	Registrations affecting moveable property, Book 4.										Number of Wills registered in Book 3.	Number of written authorities to adopt registered, other than those conferred by Wills, Book 3.
	Compulsory. Instruments of gift of moveable property (section 123, clause 2 of the Transfer of Property Act).		Instruments of sale, etc., of moveable property [section 18, clause (*d*)].		Obligations for the payment of money [section 18, clause (*f*)].		All other documents registered under section 18, clause (*f*).		Total of registrations in Book 4.			
	Number.	Aggregate value.	Number.	Aggregate value.	Number.	Aggregate value.	Number.	Aggregate value.	Number.	Aggregate value.		
	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
		RS.		RS.		RS.		RS.		RS.		
Madras	9	10,100	214	5,08,297	147	6,01,649	654	16,66,146	1,024	27,86,192	133	1
Chingleput	7	2,510	254	68,559	336	8,20,190	801	8,16,975	1,398	17,08,234	234	2
Ganjām	1	50	115	15,249	637	2,59,290	326	1,50,555	1,079	4,25,144	311	3
Gōdāvari	8	79,722	474	1,79,917	576	4,09,604	554	6,38,815	1,612	13,08,058	488	...
Vizagapatam ...	3	2,555	112	25,115	406	14,23,012	396	3,95,196	917	18,45,878	323	...
Kistna	8	3,741	584	1,42,135	722	9,08,451	879	7,62,794	2,193	18,17,121	550	6
Guntūr	3	500	249	60,251	198	3,26,168	415	3,81,739	865	7,68,658	549	1
Nellore	3	8,252	170	1,06,653	133	1,18,289	178	2,36,651	484	4,69,845	388	2
Cuddapah	6	3,585	226	33,089	88	66,033	169	1,70,377	489	2,73,084	204	...
Kurnool	4	2,200	132	33,744	57	47,718	231	5,07,176	424	5,90,838	341	1
Bellary	2	250	229	51,381	106	75,299	339	5,30,437	676	6,57,367	132	...
Anantapur	2	275	116	23,563	200	1,70,084	293	5,18,516	611	7,12,438	124	1
Chittoor	9	3,710	395	86,456	173	76,171	244	98,738	821	2,65,075	184	...
North Arcot	7	1,493	448	64,669	458	4,77,917	676	2,98,943	1,589	8,43,022	356	1
South Arcot	3	5,950	495	76,788	681	1,75,548	374	2,88,385	1,553	5,46,671	507	...
Tanjore	5	655	496	1,01,576	710	5,16,616	1,451	14,16,394	2,662	20,35,241	714	2
Tinnevelly	2	219	167	1,34,440	2,506	4,01,286	1,350	7,18,167	4,025	12,54,112	390	...
Madura	2	150	150	84,975	550	2,67,356	632	5,61,197	1,334	9,13,678	201	...
Ramnad	1	200	178	1,58,175	1,119	2,80,847	936	6,12,168	2,234	10,51,390	325	...
Trichinopoly ...	2	1,125	342	94,729	635	3,30,430	680	4,67,353	1,659	8,93,637	501	...
Salem	7	943	586	1,91,044	391	3,81,904	573	1,59,957	1,557	7,33,848	207	1
Coimbatore ...	4	774	371	1,19,198	770	3,70,713	916	5,43,811	2,061	10,34,496	223	...
The Nilgiris ...	1	500	38	23,390	11	8,557	55	37,193	105	69,640	5	...
South Kanara	12	2,286	1,261	1,54,759	1,674	5,12,967	1,684	4,91,866	4,631	11,61,878	164	...
North Malabar	22	2,438	4,307	3,12,609	3,278	3,66,349	2,333	3,82,543	9,940	10,63,939	622	...
South Malabar ...	10	4,342	956	1,66,706	8,943	10,70,244	5,869	13,86,947	15,778	26,28,239	499	...
Total ...	143	1,38,525	13,065	30,17,467	25,505	1,04,62,692	23,008	1,42,39,039	61,721	2,78,57,723	8,675	21
Total for 1915 ..	120	1,05,359	11,040	22,07,344	25,206	82,32,570	21,676	1,22,85,126	58,042	2,28,30,399	8,740	17
Total for 1914 ...	109	39,165	8,329	20,13,136	24,591	80,30,783	21,082	1,20,00,139	54,111	2,20,83,223	8,630	15

APPENDIX II.

Statement of income, namely, fees realised on registrations and all other receipts in each district of the Madras Presidency for the year 1916.

Districts.	Fees on Registrations affecting immoveable property, Book 1.																
	Compulsory.								Optional.								
	Instruments of gift [section 17 (1), clause (a)].	Instruments of sale or exchange of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards.	Instruments of sale or exchange of the value less than Rs. 100 (sections 54 and 118 of the Transfer of Property Act).	Instruments of mortgage.	Other instruments registered under section 17 (1), clauses (b) and (c).	Instruments of perpetual lease [section 17 (1), clause (d)].	Instruments of lease (other than of perpetual leases).	Total fees on compulsory registrations.	Instruments of sale or exchange of the value less than Rs. 100.	Instruments of mortgage.	Instruments of leases.	Other instruments registered under section 18, clauses (a) and (b).	Awards [section 17 (2), clause (vi)].	Miscellaneous registrations other than certified copies of decrees and orders of Court.	Certified copies of decrees and orders of Court.	Total fees on optional registrations.	Total fees on registrations affecting immoveable property.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.			RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Madras	572	16,132	163	12,735	5,593	...	3,807	39,002	...	...	7	29	57	262	21	376	39,378
Chingleput	366	25,287	5,354	26,355	3,147	117	944	61,570	...	...	274	254	..	242	4	774	62,344
Ganjām	211	20,259	5,224	19,064	1,640	48	1,952	48,398	...	...	910	115	4	331	2	1,362	49,760
Gōdāvari	1,485	27,098	2,379	21,445	4,520	31	7,237	64,195	...	...	845	137	17	460	9	1,468	65,663
Vizagapatam ..	345	15,693	2,415	20,301	2,235	94	1,057	42,140	...	...	467	85	20	485	12	1,069	43,209
Kistna	2,610	61,890	5,189	30,130	7,771	1,493	6,489	1,15,572	...	...	576	281	18	148	...	1,023	1,16,595
Guntūr	2,478	49,997	4,262	17,613	5,449	95	4,545	84,439	...	...	213	224	4	126	11	578	85,017
Nellore	561	14,748	3,138	9,019	1,801	224	1,273	30,764	...	...	76	103	2	49	3	233	30,997
Cuddapah	470	10,982	2,973	3,476	943	24	173	19,041	...	...	23	65	...	450	...	538	19,579
Kurnool	562	11,417	2,448	8,324	1,377	4	367	24,499	..	...	34	86	2	293	...	415	24,914
Bellary	274	12,244	1,637	11,674	1,018	7	460	27,314	...	...	26	44	3	45	...	118	27,432
Anantapur...	359	9,559	2,209	6,337	779	41	281	19,565	...	...	26	64	1	227	...	318	19,883
Chittoor	352	10,301	4,071	9,677	1,009	564	441	26,415	...	...	78	115	...	94	...	287	26,702
North Arcot	516	38,566	7,954	38,231	3,760	338	985	90,350	...	...	270	286	23	122	...	701	91,051
South Arcot	825	43,558	9,350	48,337	7,358	6	1,776	1,11,210	...	...	515	753	23	456	36	1,783	1,12,993
Tanjore	813	57,049	6,329	53,337	13,645	78	9,790	1,41,041	...	...	869	565	...	924	17	2,375	1,43,416
Tinnevelly	1,252	55,905	7,117	75,184	15,747	305	1,556	1,57,016	...	...	288	1,045	...	5,280	85	6,698	1,63,714
Madura	409	40,484	4,724	62,198	8,284	84	1,607	1,17,790	...	..	417	465	...	420	6	1,308	1,19,098
Ramnad	627	34,149	4,538	54,459	7,637	620	1,306	1,03,336	..	...	362	591	15	430	2	1,400	1,04,736
Trichinopoly	424	45,950	7,530	52,809	7,889	82	3,397	1,18,081	...	...	542	474	...	400	4	1,420	1,19,501
Salem	292	26,416	4,334	32,051	3,584	78	818	67,573	...	...	338	214	6	467	5	1,030	68,603
Coimbatore	679	46,026	4,327	61,391	9,603	49	6,069	1,28,144	...	...	773	538	...	1,656	33	3,000	1,31,144
The Nilgiris	27	1,709	391	901	293	...	136	3,457	...	...	2	4	...	178	15	199	3,656
South Kanara	460	8,166	379	18,242	10,929	2,698	1,742	42,616	...	...	1,092	797	...	3,510	5	5,404	48,020
North Malabar	1,317	3,150	123	30,607	15,152	223	8,849	59,421	...	...	2,964	5,466	...	3,852	21	12,303	71,724
South Malabar	845	7,809	685	61,294	32,606	67	4,639	1,07,945	...	...	9,002	8,083	...	7,091	9	24,185	1,32,130
Total ...	19,131	6,94,544	99,243	7,85,141	1,73,769	7,370	71,696	18,50,894	...	...	20,989	20,883	195	27,998	300	70,365	19,21,259
Total for 1915 ...	14,212	6,04,212	91,871	7,48,937	1,62,785	7,970	68,078	16,98,065	...	...	20,730	20,769	213	25,363	179	67,254	17,65,319
Total for 1914 ...	15,185	6,18,090	98,173	7,57,596	1,56,504	7,767	72,438	17,25,753	...	...	22,535	20,234	222	26,827	149	69,967	17,95,720

APPENDIX II—*concluded.*

Statement of income, namely, fees realized on registrations and all other receipts in each district of the Madras Presidency for the year 1916—concluded.

Districts.	Fees on registrations affecting moveable property, Book 4. Compulsory. Instruments of gift of moveable property (section 123, clause 2 of the Transfer of Property Act).	Instruments of sale, etc., of moveable property [section 18, clause (d)].	Obligations for the payment of money [section 18, clause (f)].	All other documents registered under section 18, clause (f).	Total fees on registrations affecting moveable property.	Fees on registration of Wills in Book 3.	Fees on registration of written authorities to adopt other than those conferred by Wills, Book 3.	Total fees on all registrations.	Receipts other than fees on registration. Fines under sections 25 and 34.	Fees on commissions issued (sections 33 and 38).	Fees on visits paid (sections 31, 33 and 38).	Fees for inspection of Books 1 and 2 and the indexes to Book 1 (section 57).	Copying fees credited to Government.	All other receipts.	Total receipts.	Total income.
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Madras	37	960	1,122	3,988	6,107	502	4	45,991	...	15	1,956	7,330	1,753	1,163	12,217	58,208
Chingleput	13	331	570	2,634	3,548	750	9	66,651	1	...	895	6,430	1,468	859	9,653	76,304
Ganjām	...	119	1,024	1,052	2,195	829	14	52,798	...	...	3,004	4,276	984	722	8,986	61,784
Gōdāvari	93	752	979	2,243	4,067	1,648	...	71,378	8	5	4,841	10,003	2,900	1,826	19,583	90,961
Vizagapatam	8	154	1,479	1,416	3,057	953	...	47,219	8	30	2,310	4,213	1,261	895	8,717	55,936
Kistna	15	753	1,078	2,897	4,743	2,046	24	1,23,408	276	30	6,480	12,009	3,720	1,750	24,265	1,47,673
Guntūr	4	324	270	1,422	2,020	1,935	4	88,976	75	20	2,456	6,744	1,708	1,598	12,601	1,01,577
Nellore	18	364	215	768	1,365	1,107	8	33,477	93	20	935	2,413	969	631	5,061	38,538
Cuddapah	14	244	146	633	1,037	653	...	21,269	5	...	528	1,186	437	369	2,525	23,794
Kurnool	9	176	129	1,357	1,671	1,124	5	27,714	...	...	739	2,008	514	242	3,503	31,217
Bellary	2	319	247	1,477	2,045	405	...	29,882	9	...	529	1,814	366	459	3,177	33,059
Anantapur	2	140	264	1,455	1,861	387	4	22,135	...	...	193	1,091	300	303	1,887	24,022
Chittoor	14	485	284	838	1,621	445	...	28,768	200	10	553	2,444	742	607	4,556	33,324
North Arcot	10	457	525	2,128	3,120	1,046	4	95,221	15	...	2,254	6,643	1,572	1,282	11,766	1,06,987
South Arcot	15	521	734	1,083	2,353	1,593	...	1,16,939	45	20	2,169	15,688	2,516	1,994	22,432	1,39,371
Tanjore	6	578	1,398	5,302	7,284	2,424	8	1,53,132	28	30	10,665	25,267	8,472	2,137	46,599	1,99,731
Tinnevelly	7	425	2,461	3,068	5,961	1,331	...	1,71,006	6	20	9,929	23,474	4,078	1,332	38,839	2,09,845
Madura	2	296	826	2,005	3,129	666	...	1,22,893	...	5	2,333	19,680	3,188	1,635	26,841	1,49,734
Rāmnād	1	409	1,329	2,836	4,575	999	...	1,10,810	15	13	3,965	16,989	3,597	1,743	26,322	1,36,632
Trichinopoly	4	493	872	2,180	3,549	1,590	...	1,24,640	37	...	2,642	13,834	3,188	1,518	21,219	1,45,859
Salem	7	781	724	1,875	3,387	554	5	72,549	51	20	691	5,780	1,290	1,399	9,231	81,780
Coimbatore	6	599	1,300	2,645	4,550	700	...	1,36,394	6	25	1,545	16,034	2,786	1,263	21,659	1,58,053
The Nilgiris	2	82	18	245	347	19	...	4,022	...	...	60	1,144	110	151	1,465	5,487
South Kanara	17	1,154	2,624	2,969	6,764	526	...	55,310	13	130	7,464	5,576	4,149	720	18,052	73,362
North Malabar	19	3,017	2,745	2,826	8,607	1,570	...	81,901	...	160	8,057	9,005	3,813	1,062	22,097	1,03,998
South Malabar	16	919	7,655	7,647	16,237	1,459	...	1,49,826	19	60	8,629	12,732	5,769	2,227	29,436	1,79,262
Total ...	341	14,852	31,018	58,989	1,05,200	27,261	89	20,53,809	910	613	85,822	2,33,807	61,650	29,887	4,12,689	24,66,498
Total for 1915 ...	285	12,068	30,375	53,650	96,378	27,296	71	18,89,064	1,125	484	84,698	2,11,798	57,774	25,596	3,81,475	22,70,539
Total for 1914 ...	173	9,448	30,282	52,805	92,708	27,011	63	19,15,502	2,498	611	85,472	1,98,888	59,027	19,173	3,65,669	22,81,171

APPENDIX III.

Statement of expenditure in each district of the Madras Presidency for the year 1916.

Districts.	Fixed salaries of Registering officers.	Percentage paid to Registering officers.	Cost of establishment.			Other items of expenditure.	Total expenditure.
			Permanent.	Temporary.	Total.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Office of the Inspector-General of Registration.	23,454	...	17,134	12	17,146	72,142	1,12,742
Madras	14,987	...	9,005	360	9,365	3,754	28,106
Chingleput	17,743	...	11,001	1,739	12,740	3,378	33,861
Ganjām	16,189	...	11,792	1,372	13,164	4,385	33,738
Gōdāvari	28,103	23	17,775	663	18,438	6,482	48,046
Vizagapatam	14,832	...	6,949	1,154	8,103	1,989	24,924
Kistna	24,944	...	22,812	1,256	24,068	7,744	56,756
Guntūr	23,765	...	16,198	1,430	17,628	7,294	48,687
Nellore	13,891	...	6,674	403	7,077	1,732	22,700
Cuddapah	11,648	...	7,915	77	7,992	2,793	22,433
Kurnool	10,658	...	5,699	178	5,877	1,254	17,789
Bellary	14,741	...	7,740	168	7,908	2,527	25,176
Anantapur	9,216	...	4,291	169	4,460	865	14,541
Chittoor	15,087	...	10,607	405	11,012	3,056	29,155
North Arcot	23,127	...	14,564	1,447	16,011	4,449	43,587
South Arcot	38,385	...	32,105	821	32,926	9,878	81,189
Tanjore	46,916	...	40,184	1,185	41,369	10,526	98,811
Tinnevelly	39,979	...	38,429	1,226	39,655	9,887	89,521
Madura	30,523	...	27,421	906	28,327	7,143	65,993
Rāmnād	25,085	...	23,422	584	24,006	5,788	54,879
Trichinopoly	30,446	...	26,768	1,729	28,497	6,691	65,634
Salem	22,933	...	14,373	1,308	15,681	3,891	42,505
Coimbatore	32,736	...	27,774	775	28,549	6,225	67,510
The Nilgiris	2,448	...	1,908	...	1,908	989	5,345
South Kanara	22,892	...	12,911	634	13,545	4,593	41,030
North Malabar	32,110	...	33,093	469	33,562	8,223	73,895
South Malabar	45,983	...	47,139	3,339	50,478	12,725	1,09,186
Total ...	6,27,821	23	4,95,683	23,809	5,19,492	* 2,10,403	* 13,57,739
Total for 1915 ...	† 6,22,617	36	4,66,396	22,460	4,88,856	* 2,58,068	†* 13,69,577
Total for 1914 ...	6,27,030	4	4,63,152	28,789	4,91,941	* 2,78,206	* 13,97,181

* These sums include the following items:—

(1) Estimated value of printing and binding and of stationery, excluding paper for books and forms.

(2) Amount debited to buildings.

The amounts relating to these items were—

For 1916 ... ... Rs. 19,332 and Rs. 40,079.
" 1915 ... ... Rs. 27,917 and Rs. 79,246.
" 1914 ... ... Rs. 19,510 and Rs. 94,137.

† Revised figures.

APPENDIX IV.

Statement of principal operations other than registrations in Books 1, 3 and 4 in each district of the Madras Presidency for the year 1916.

Districts.	Covers containing Wills deposited (section 42).	Covers containing Wills withdrawn (section 44).	Covers containing Wills opened (section 45).	Wills removed to Courts under section 259 of the Indian Succession Act, copy being kept in Book 3 under section 46 (2).	Powers-of-Attorney authenticated.	Registrations under section 25.	Registrations under section 34.	Refusals to register (sections 71 and 76).	Appeals against such refusals (section 72) and applications under section 73 regarding such refusals. Registration ordered.	Appeals against such refusals (section 72) and applications under section 73 regarding such refusals. Registration refused.	Registration ordered by Civil Courts (section 77).	Prosecutions (section 83).	Number of orders and certificates filed in Book 1 under section 89 of the Registration Act. Under Land Improvement Loans Act.	Under Agriculturists' Loans Act.	Under Rule 94, Order XXI, Code of Civil Procedure.	Granted by Revenue Officers.	Searches or applications for copies.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Madras	10	2	1	...	656	...	...	17	9	...	1	...	...	...	65	31	5,328
Chingleput	...	1	...	...	194	3	...	37	19	7	...	...	67	609	308	202	6,393
Ganjām	1	1	...	...	128	...	1	39	6	1	...	1	36	38	221	62	3,945
Gōdāvari	12	6	1	...	241	...	4	37	10	10	...	...	...	...	243	67	9,645
Vizagapatam	2	1	...	...	205	2	...	30	12	4	...	1	8	10	188	98	4,396
Kistna	2	1	...	...	319	2	16	85	41	20	1	..	15	26	579	96	11,639
Guntūr	6	1	1	...	116	6	5	53	14	1	...	...	24	25	417	103	7,479
Nellore	...	1	2	...	100	1	13	57	21	3	...	..	8	34	403	212	3,477
Cuddapah	2	1	2	...	29	...	2	9	2	1	...	...	43	110	163	238	1,720
Kurnool	...	...	1	...	45	...	...	3	1	...	...	2	25	76	318	8	2,290
Bellary	...	2	1	...	29	1	2	4	1	1	...	...	84	207	143	55	1,653
Anantapur	...	...	...	...	17	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	43	178	122	19	1,472
Chittoor	2	1	1	...	130	4	4	19	2	1	1	...	49	302	203	680	2,643
North Arcot	1	...	...	...	150	1	2	60	15	6	...	...	80	291	377	232	6,402
South Arcot	4	...	...	...	190	1	5	103	48	14	1	2	25	64	1,196	252	10,698
Tanjore	4	2	2	...	721	...	5	156	85	13	...	...	10	1,228	681	611	23,885
Tinnevelly	3	1	1	...	457	1	2	66	22	6	...	...	108	172	656	2,112	17,346
Madura	1	...	...	...	539	...	...	66	26	7	...	...	119	694	575	683	13,124
Rāmnād	1	...	...	...	501		...	32	15	4	...	...	23	7	712	287	13,409
Trichinopoly	2	...	...	...	338	2	3	78	24	4	1	2	45	162	862	616	13,065
Salem	3	1	1	...	83	3	2	29	14	2	...	...	58	84	446	76	5,219
Coimbatore	1	...	1	...	178	...	3	59	21	3	..	...	475	89	440	96	11,800
The Nilgiris	1	...	...	...	75	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	24	69	24	15	481
South Kanara	4	1	...	...	236	...	...	30	6	2	...	...	4	1	172	21	9,226
North Malabar	22	3	2	...	508	...	...	48	2	6	...	...	...	2	766	33	13,652
South Malabar	3	...	...	...	879	...	2	74	18	7	...	...	2	...	566	81	16,691
Total ...	87	26	17	..	7,064	28	71	1,196	434	123	5	8	1,375	4,478	10,846	6,986	217,078
Total for 1915 ...	59	28	26	...	6,400	41	107	1,175	414	158	9	* 9	1,448	4,523	9,452	6,271	202,822
Total for 1914 ...	82	24	20	... *	6,482	47	104	* 1,664	* 482	* 158	13	12	2,242	4,935	9,587	8,143	207,710

* Revised figures.

Government of Madras

HOME DEPARTMENT (JUDICIAL).

G.O. No. 1391, 5th July 1917

Registration Report

Reviewing the report on the administration of the Registration department during the triennium 1914 to 1916.

READ—the following paper :—

Letter—from C. M. SCHMIDT, Esq., Inspector-General of Registration.
To—the Secretary to Government, Home (Judicial) Department.
Dated—Madras, the 19th April 1917.
No.—204-Genl.

I have the honour to submit the report on the administration of the Registration department for the three years ending with 1916, and in doing so to express my regret for having exceeded the maximum limit of ten pages. I have endeavoured to cut down matter and to avoid statistics wherever possible in the body of the report.

Order—No. 1391, Home (Judicial), dated 5th July 1917.

The report on the administration of the Registration department for the triennium 1914–16 shows that the total transactions of the department during the period did not suffer any serious set back on account of the war. Though the first and second years of the triennium witnessed a falling off, the number of registrations in 1915 declining by more than 6 per cent, yet in the third year the activities of the department recovered so fully that the number of registrations reached the record figure of 1,377,135. As a result, the total number of registrations for the triennium showed only a nominal falling off, 0·2 per cent, when compared with the preceding triennium. The aggregate value of transactions rose from 114·23 crores to 127·36 crores. This increase, attributable chiefly to the increased value of land consequent on the general rise in prices, brought in the increased revenue of 70·18 lakhs, as against 65·26 lakhs during the preceding triennium, and 57·63 lakhs in the period 1908–10. The expenditure was 40·58 lakhs, against 39·30 lakhs in the preceding period.

2. Facilities for registration were extended by the opening of fourteen sub-offices in the early part of 1914; but schemes for further extensions had to be held over owing to financial pressure due to the war, although the fact that, in areas where new offices had been opened, the number of registrations has been exceptionally rapid has been recognised.

3. Relief was afforded by the increase in the number and pay of probationary sub-registrars and by the increase of the minimum pay of clerks. The latter formed part of a scheme for the revision of the scale of pay of the whole clerical staff, which has been sanctioned but which, with the exception of the portion mentioned above, had to be postponed till the financial position would admit of its introduction. Since the close of the triennium the remuneration of the section writers employed in the department has also been increased.

4. The percentage of documents copied and kept ready for delivery on the day of presentation showed a further improvement, from 72·7 in 1913 to 75·7 in 1916.

5. The Governor in Council notes that the high degree of efficiency already attained by the department was maintained during the triennium and he appreciates the good work of Mr. Schmidt and his officers.

(True Extract)

R. Ramachandra Rao,
Secretary to Government.

Editors' Table.

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